

suburban scene

Bravo Rinaldi!

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Carbondale Area
Journal



"Ignore it. It'll go away."
That's not hanging over the doors at Carbondale City Hall, but it should be. Maybe the administration and city council can adopt it as their official motto.

Now, we all put things off at one time or another, and procrastination is one of my favorite pastimes, but neither you nor I are running city government.

Prior to last Monday's Carbondale Council meeting every member of council had received a copy of a petition signed by the city's police officers, active and retired, and by the widows of police officers who are receiving benefits from the police pension fund.

We all know about the problems concerning the pension fund. We all know it's on the verge of bankruptcy. An important item to be discussed? You would think so, but despite receiving a copy of the petition, not one member of council mentioned the petition.

Incredible.

When the subject of the police pension fund was raised by Charlotte More, did the other members of Council feel it was important enough to discuss? Hardly.

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Councilman Frank Grecco Jr. wanted Council to be aware of a bad situation on Williams Ave., and even went so far as to taking a few pictures to show his fellow solons what the street looked like.

The Williams Avenue residents have been living with this problem for sometime. The city has been aware of it for sometime. So has Council. The city's action was to seek a "eminent danger" grant from the Department of Community Affairs, but representatives from DCA came up from Scranton to look at the Street and declared it was not a danger to residents.

As Grecco said, "I wish they'd come back up and tell that to my face." Take a ride over to Williams Avenue and see for yourself if it isn't a dangerous situation. Did the rest of Council back up Grecco on this and demand some sort of action from the city? Hardly.

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Councilman Abe Calzola has been trying to find out for months just how much land the city owns on the west side of town, just where the city limits are. No one can tell him. The city's response is that they'd have to hire a surveyor and they don't have the money.

Did the rest of council back up Calzola on this, in his attempt to find out if perhaps the city has more land to sell that they think to do? Hardly.

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Council has become ineffective, especially now just a month before the election. They quickly pass ordinances, unanimously, amending the LERTA ordinance, when and how to fly the flags along Main St., increasing the license fee for peddlers during Pioneer Days; and allowing angle parking on Bronson Place, however, try to get them to agree on something as important as the police and firemen's pension funds, or the dangerous condition of the street at Williams Avenue; or the open sewer and rat infested area on South Park Street, and most of them are there like the three monkeys. See No. Here No. Speak No.

Election is around the corner and no one wants to rock the boat.

"Ignore it. It'll go away."

The police department is in shambles, the fire department is in turmoil, the street department is a joke; the laws of the community are constantly circumvented or ignored by most everyone in town.

And the Administration and City Council go their separate but similar ways, rubber stamping the easy decisions like, "Do we close City Hall on Oct. 10 since Columbus Day is the 12th and that falls on a Wednesday?" At the same time they won't touch the police or fire issue with a 10-foot pole.

"Ignore it. It'll go away."

Next Sunday is Oct. 2nd, a little better than a month before the election. You'll start seeing all the bumper stickers and the signs now. Political ads will begin to take over the radio and TV and newsprint, promising all of us the yellow brick road to Health, Happiness, Prosperity! just by voting for what-sisname.

Most if not all of it is just so much garbage. Look at what the monkeys have done over at city hall for the past four years, and now they want you to believe they're actually going to do something?

Williams Avenue . . . South Park Street, the building and fire code violations in 50 percent of the structures in town . . . the police, fire and street departments . . . the filth along Main Street which no one wants to talk about because it's not nice . . . and you can go on for a month of Sundays.

They've done little or nothing for four years, but now that the election is around the corner they'll be trying to make you believe they've been working their tails off to make our City what it is today, the Crown Jewel Of Lackawanna County.

The motto at City Hall and over the door of Council Chambers for the past four years has been "Ignore it. It'll go away."

I wonder if we did the same on Nov. 8, "Ignore them. They'll Go away" if it would really happen.